

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 15, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. CLARK made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Joint Resolution S. 38.]

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the petition of John Grayson, report:

By the act of 4th July, 1836, (5 Stat., 128,) the widow of a soldier of the revolution, under certain circumstances, was entitled to receive "the annuity or pension which might have been allowed to the husband," &c. On the 11th December, 1844, a certificate was issued by the War Department, (then in charge of the subject,) in favor of Susannah Stokely, widow of Captain Nehemiah Stokely, for a pension, from 4th March, 1831, to 27th August, 1836, the day of her death, at the rate of \$480 per annum, payable to Joseph Stokely and Polly Finley, the only children of Captain Stokely, for whose service the pension was granted. Upon this certificate the two children received the sum of \$2,630 66, the whole amount allowed by law. In 1854, Mr. DeCamp, a son of Mrs. Stokely by a subsequent marriage, applied for his portion of the pension, as one of the legal heirs of Mrs. Stokely, and in February, 1855 a certificate was issued by the Department of the Interior for the sum of \$526 13. This certificate was duly paid by the petitioner, Mr. Grayson, the duly authorized pension agent. On the presentation of his accounts, the voucher for this payment was disallowed by the accounting officers, on the ground that the whole amount allowed by law had been already paid by competent authority, and Mr. Grayson was informed that he must apply to Congress for relief.

The facts, as above stated, are fully set out in the official statements of the Commissioner of Pensions and the accounting officers, which are among the papers. The committee think, as the pension agent paid the money upon the regular warrant of the proper department, which he had no authority to revise or question, he is entitled to credit for the same, and they report a joint resolution for that purpose.

The first part of the document is a letter from the President of the United States to the Congress, dated September 17, 1789. In this letter, the President expresses his gratitude to the Congress for the adoption of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. He also mentions the signing of the Constitution by the President and the members of the Congress.

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